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REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNOR OF MONTANA

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

1888.

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GOVERNOR OF MONTANA.

THE TERRITORY OF MONTANA,
Governor's Office, Helena, October 24, 1888.

SIR: It affords me great pleasure and much satisfaction, in making my annual report to you in regard to the condition and prospects of the Territory over which I have the honor to preside, in response to your request of recent date, to be able to speak of the continued prosperity which cheers and excites the hand of industry in these mountain homes. The record shows a marked advancement in all directions during the period that has elapsed since I submitted my last review in 1887. I assume that Montana has the brightest and most promising outlook of any of the Territories for the future. There is no need for me to sound its praises or exaggerate its advantages. The fame of Montana has spread abroad all over the land. The people of the entire country are familiar with its offering chances for profitable investment of capital and the accumulation of fortunes. The immense increase in the volume and scope of the mining business, and the activity in entering lands and occupation of sections of country heretofore sparsely settled, the notable increase of commercial enterprises and investments in real estate, and other great improvements, are conclusive evidences that Montana's progress is of no merely ephemeral character. It is on a solid basis; its onward march is steady and irresistible. As governor of such a magnificent section of this great country I feel a pride in calling attention to its advantages, and in the accompanying report have given in detail some facts and suggestions which may be read and studied with profit, not only by those looking westward for homes, but by many others who would thoroughly comprehend this great American domain.

There has been no enumeration of Montana's people since the taking of the census of 1880, therefore perfect accuracy in statements of the numbers now will not be expected. It is a well-known fact that there is now, and has been for a number of years, a large stream of immigrants pouring into this Territory, and not one in fifty that comes ever goes away. A very few days lingering in this country ripens into permanent citizenship. With a view of arriving at a reasonable certainty as to the number of our population, I have consulted the assessors of the several counties, and asked their careful consideration and opinions touching the entire population of their respective counties; and, taking

as a basis their answers to me, it would appear that the present population of the Territory is 140,000—an increase of 10,000 over my estimate of last year. Every State and Territory of the United States is represented amongst the citizenship of this Territory. Almost every nationality of civilization can here find one or more who speak the dialect of their country. The people of this Territory are contented and full of prosperity, and as a rule are free from financial convulsions and cramping stringency in the flow of business and commercial affairs of the country.

In the matter of taxation I feel that you and the country at large will be interested in knowing that the citizens of Montana have no onerous burdens to bear. The rapidly increasing population and the marvelous development of all the varied industries of the Territory naturally tend to swell the value of taxable property and increase the revenues. While the expenses may also grow in some measure—such is a necessary incident to the growth and progress of all new countries—yet it is gradual, and more than overbalanced by the contributions of a prosperous and contented people, whose success in their different avocations enable them to meet their obligations without financial embarrassment to themselves or neglect of duty to the Government. The condition of the masses of the people in this respect, I am gratified to be able to say, is most satisfactory, and is evidence of their thrift, energy, and contentment.

The principle objects for which the Government of Montana levies and collects taxes from the people are, the education of the children, the execution and enforcement of the criminal laws, and the care of the insane. The expenses incurred in administering the affairs of these important divisions of the Territorial government consume a large proportion of the revenue derived from the tax-levy; but even these expenditures, and all others, are by no means extravagantly heavy. Footing up the entire expenses of the various departments of this Territorial government the showing made is highly satisfactory. The financial condition of the Territory demonstrates the fact that it is founded on a sound and stable basis; it enjoys the enviable distinction of being entirely free from debt, owing not one dollar, and there is plenty of money in the treasury. The Territorial taxes are very light, which is a persuasive inducement to immigration.

All the industries of this division of the great Northwest have been active and highly prosperous during the period which this report covers. Striking advances in progress have been made above the results of the year preceeding. There has been a marvelous stride forward in agriculture, astounding to the people who have been skeptical as to the value and capabilities of Montana soil for farming purposes. The results achieved by the sturdy ranchmen who have settled in the valleys and upon lands all over the Territory have manifested the capacity of these lands for successful culture and production of agricultural crops, remunerative in the highest degree. It can be stated in truth that the average yield per acre of wheat, oats, Irish potatoes, and cultivated grass in Montana, for the year 1887, was not equaled by that of any other Territory or State. This great foundation interest of all others in this American country is here in Montana rapidly extending and growing in importance. These rich, cheap lands have attracted the attention of the student farmer seeking a home, and in their culture and trial they have demonstrated to the world that this is not only the country of grass and valuable minerals, but is the farmer's country as well. The increasing accessions to this most of all wealth-producing

avocation is giving strength to the force and skill of its widening course.

The Territory abounds with the most plentiful supply of timber, stone, and water. There is probably no section in any part of the world in which finer building stone or marble can be obtained. Immense quantities of each are used all over the Territory in the construction of some of the finest public and private structures, which compare with the choicest to be found in the metropolitan cities of the East. The great abundance and superior quality of this item of riches in Montana render it certain that in the early future its shipment to points all over the country will become a great and profitable industry.

The water-power in the valleys is another of Montana's wonderful resources. Not only is there the fullest supply in the valleys, but high up on the sides of the mountains and down among the foot-hills great and noisy streams of the most beautiful waters burst out among the rocks and course their way. On the crest of the rising plains, in the bosom and on the top of the tall mountains, great lakes of clear and sparkling water are set in stone, and full of the finest fish. Many of these lakes should rank as inland seas, being of great depth and miles in length, some of the smaller ones on the high mountains 4,000 to 9,000 feet above the level of the sea. Multitudes of hot-water springs of every temperature are constantly flowing out from the mountain sides and boiling up from the plains.

Montana possesses admirable facilities for manufacturing enterprises, especially for men of small capital, who are compelled to operate at a low rate of expense. There is plenty of wood and inexhaustible fields of coal, and this is the easiest and cheapest country for fine roadways of every class.

The climate is unsurpassed in America. There is no epidemic or pulmonary trouble attaching to this country.

As an evidence showing the taste and confidence of a large body of people in the agricultural capacities of this empire, the fact may be stated, as shown in the land offices of this Territory, that there was from June, 1885, to July, 1888, almost 2,000,000 acres of these fine farming lands homesteaded, or taken up through some of the other processes provided by law, and are now under settlement and cultivation.

Three great trunk lines of railroad stretch out and over this entire Territory, affording the quickest transportation to the East, the South, the West and the North. Branch roads have penetrated into the important mining sections. There is now in process of building and projected a number of other branches, which will encourage the settlement of new agricultural sections and the investment of heavy amounts of capital in mining properties leading to their development.

A somewhat careful inquiry into the trade and commerce of this Territory the past year enables me to say that the commercial operations of this people, through the last fiscal year, amount to \$49,000,000. The product this year of the mines, the income from the sale of wool, sheep, cattle, and horses, with the receipts for surplus agricultural products, foot up \$47,000,000. The total assessed value of the taxable property in the Territory this year is \$69,600,000. The mining properties are not taxed.

EDUCATION.

The subject of education is a favorite theme in every household in Montana. The people are united and have one common spirit of the largest liberality and eager willingness in sustaining and advancing

their public schools. Every child of school age in the Territory is on the school-roll and is at school nine months of the year. In this Territory there is in each of the cities and large towns the very best and highest class of graded schools, and in all the schools of the Territory the very best class of teachers, superintendents, etc. Montana has no public school fund, amounting up to millions, as have the people of the States. The school fund for public schools in this Territory is in the hearts of the people and taxation of their property. The entire fund, supplemented by a small amount derived from fines, is raised from year to year by direct taxation. No one complains of it. And yet there is more money paid out per capita for public schools by Montana's people than is paid by the people (including their assistance from their great school funds) of any of the States. Besides these public schools for the children that can see, hear, and talk, the Territory has provided by law (and it is being done) for the education of all the blind children and deaf-mutes between eight and eighteen years of age in the Territory, at the very best institutions for that afflicted class in the United States, and pays for their education and transportation, under care of a paid escort from their homes.

The support of future public schools in Montana is liberally provided for by the action of the General Government heretofore, in setting apart and donating one-eighteenth of the public lands within the Territory for the benefit of the schools, and in pursuance of that law the sixteen and thirty-sixth sections have been so set apart and designated as school lands for Montana's people. But this grant is withheld from the possession or use and benefit of the people and children of Montana until such time in the future when it may be deemed proper to pass them into their possession and control. It is a matter of grateful pride with these people, through these years of waiting, as they anxiously look forward to the time when they shall be allowed the force of this great accession to their educational facilities; but it is painful, and a source of regret and humiliation to this people, to see and know of these lands being seized, fenced, occupied, appropriated, sold, and conveyed, and the timber cut and consumed, in the greed and reckless grasping of combined capital and avarice of individuals, without let or hindrance.

It is now less than a quarter of a century since this Territory was organized into a white man's government, and less than a dozen years since law and order, clothed in strict civilization, commanded the full confidence of the people. The citizens of this useful commonwealth are faithful and prompt in the highest liberality supporting the Government and answering to every call of duty. No government in America covering jurisdiction over a like number of people, scattered as these are, and so far separated, can boast of less crime and vice amongst its citizens, nor is there any government in which the laws of the country are more respected and rigidly enforced against crime than here in Montana. It will be a great blessing to the children who in the future are to be entitled to the accruing help of said lands, if they could be now placed under the oversight and care of Montana's people, or some of them. This, or some other effective agency, needs to be put into execution, in order that this great treasure may be the better protected from trespass and spoliation, being, as it is, scattered over this vast extent of country; and I do most earnestly ask that such be done.

LABOR.

The industries of this Territory need and command the services of many thousands of laboring men having the highest type of educated

skill of every grade, and the ordinary willing worker as well. It is a matter of great encouragement that the supply is always plentiful and ready. The laboring people of Montana constitutes a large majority of her population; and it is the subject of much pride to this people that here in this Territory that honorable and deserving class of citizens are paid higher wages for their labor, and they are better contented, than elsewhere in the United States. No capitalist here hesitates to invest his money in enterprises of venture on account of apprehended strikes and boycotting; and hence the millions of dollars in former years, and additional millions the past year, put into great enterprises which are growing and pushing forward, spreading riches to the country and affording the greatest encouragement to the laboring man. Some of the rich fruits of this order of things may be seen in the thousands of happy homes standing out as inviting lights all over the Territory, the result of industry and frugality.

There are very many of Montana's men of to-day who handle their hundreds of thousands, and some of them millions, and who command long lines of railroads, stand at the headship of banks, counsel and give direction to commerce, shape public policy, and rank in the highest circle of statesmanship, that were here in these mountains laboring men less than twenty years ago, and not one of them has ever yet forgotten to sympathize with and encourage the laboring man.

INDIANS.

The control and oversight of the Indians upon the reservations within this Territory through the past year deserve the highest praise and commendation of those in charge of that important trust. With the exception of a few days' noise and unrest to the citizens in the neighborhood of the Crow Agency, on account of some trouble there with a few of the Indians, the people have been free from annoyance and apprehension on account of their presence in the Territory.

Their government and quiet advance in civilization on the Flat Head Reservation is a speaking witness of the wisdom and efficiency of the agent in charge, and the value and success of "St. Ignatius Mission," in possession and control of the fathers and sisters. Located as it is, in the midst of the Indian settlements, on those reserved lands, this institution is a most delightful and charming home, with all the improvements and attachments needful for its purposes—elegant residences, large and commodious school rooms, work-shops, church buildings, gardens, mills, beautiful lawns, decorated with the choicest collection of flowers. In this institution there are now almost two hundred Indian children, girls and boys, for tuition and preparation to enter the walks of civilized life. I made a personal inspection of the place, the buildings, and all their apartments, and saw the Indian children, and heard them fully examined and tested in their studies and work. No one need have any doubt of their capacity and advancing scholarship, which is most marked and impressively encouraging. And so of their success in mechanics, harness-making and saddlery, blacksmithing, shoe-making, carpentry, etc. This institution has been and is now a great agency and power in the progress of civilization amongst the Indians. There is a capacity in buildings for larger numbers than are there. They are placed there and put under the discipline, instruction, and training of the school by the voluntary choice of their parents, and seem as delighted and happy as other children. They are taught to speak and are instructed in the use of the English language.

In traveling over the reservation very much of strikingly convincing evidence will be seen of their thrift and cultivation in civilized life. Farms, in size from 50 acres to 1,000, are inclosed with the very best class of skillfully laid and built fences, and cut up into lots and divisions in excellent taste. Well-arranged dwellings and out-houses, gardens, and lawns are laid out, built with a skill and finish emulating the white man farmer; and about their houses, and in their fields, great stacks of wheat, oats, grass, and straw stand out in full sight, and the reaper, the thresher, the plow, the mower, and other farm implements, all of which show their successful training.

There are many of these Indians yet in idleness and in their native savage state of life, and they have to be ruled with a strong hand and kept in subjection, while the others, who are accepting the offers and benefits of civilization, hardly need any ruling; indeed they are a great help, and readily and willingly render much aid to the agent in his successful management of them. The greatest enemy and peace-disturber that ever comes onto this reservation, or near its borders, is *the white man with his bottle of whisky*; and, although the Territory has the most stringent laws against such traffic, and the courts and people are prompt to enforce their penalties, yet very much of this evil hinders and is a great weight upon the peace and quiet of this peculiar race of people. Somehow or other many of them get it and become crazed, and are as dangerous as the wild beast.

I have not yet made a personal visit to any other of the reservations, but the information I have enables me to use the strongest terms in commendation of their management by those in charge.

The Government should immediately make some provision for the humane care and treatment of the Indians who are afflicted with insanity. Some of them already suffer under this malady, and, running at large, they are dangerous to others and to themselves. The humanity of our country demands that it be done, in justice to the unfortunate victims and as a protection to the country.

Ten years ago one chief source of unrest and feeling of insecurity to the people of the Territory was the burning fires of the Indians, hate and malice toward the white man. The people then, and for years preceding, were in constant danger of savage visitations from these enemies to their peace. Roving bands of them then plundered, stole, and carried away the property of the citizens, and were a constant threat of danger about every home. But it is a matter of congratulation, and much praise and thanks are due to the wise and humane management of this Indian problem, which has vexed our country so long and cost so much of human life and golden treasure, that has now so nearly solved the question, and has so nearly established peace and its blessings to the citizenship of these western homes.

It is now most certainly true that education—coupled with learning to work and voluntarily choosing to work, and the use of the Bible and its holy precepts—is the great highway to their civilization and preparation for self-support. These appliances will succeed with their children, but can be made effective only to a limited extent with the grown-up ones; and especially so as to those in advanced life. The fruits of St. Ignatius Mission, interwoven with the patient, skillful oversight and counsel of the Government agent, as they appear all over the Flat-head Reservation, and the constant labors, in justice and fairness, of the agents in charge of the other tribes of these Indian people show conclusively the success of these means.

MINING.

Mining continues to be the leading pursuit of the people of Montana. The mines are more productive than ever before. More of the old mines are now being worked than at any previous period. Almost every day adds to the list of new mines discovered by prospectors engaged in this work. The improved methods in working and the better order of machinery used, coupled with the wisdom of experience, enable men to prosecute this branch of our industries to a greater extent and with more success. Many mines which would not pay twenty years ago on account of the primitive mode of working them, together with the high price of labor, are now being worked at good profit.

Placer mines are numerous and extensive, and will yield large returns for many years. Nearly all the valleys in our vast mountain area yield more or less placer gold.

The number of quartz mines of gold, silver, copper, and lead now in operation is greater than ever before. The principal causes for this are, that labor is more abundant, and the facilities for reaching, reducing, and selling the ores have so greatly increased. Mines which were formerly worked only to represent and hold the prior claim upon them are now in regular service, and the ores from them are shipped to the reduction works and sold for profit. The extensive reduction works now in process of erection near Helena and at Great Falls have given a new impulse to mining operations.

Although the supply of water necessary for mining was much less this year than for many years before, and the mining season was consequently much shorter than usual, the yield of bullion from all sources is greater than ever before, and the prospect is that the yield will continue to increase.

The large areas of mineral coal in Montana are now attracting more attention and interest than ever before. The scarcity of wood in many places, and the increasing demand for fuel for domestic, manufacturing, and mining purposes and for railroads, has called attention to the vast coal fields near the railroads, and many of them have been opened and the coals placed on the market. Much of it is coked and extensively used in the smelting works.

As a very large portion of the profits of our mines depends upon the value of the silver contained in the ores worked, the people are naturally solicitous about the depreciation of that item of wealth. In my report of a year ago, speaking on this subject, I used this language:

While our people freely pay large, and in some instances exorbitant, taxes for the support of large established and richly endowed industries of the old and wealthy portions of the country, we ask no protection for this great industry developed by the enterprise and labor of American people, though equal justice could but grant it. We who by and through our unprotected labor are yearly pouring millions into all the treasuries and channels of commerce of this great country, simply ask that the silver that we produce shall share its full measure of just consideration in the legislation of the Government.

And I now reproduce them here with emphasis.

The Government has given to these people this Territorial government and made the promise of guardianship and protection, and we look for that fostering help to aid us in laying in these distant mountains broad and deep the foundations of our coming Commonwealth.

The value of the gold, silver, copper, and lead produced this year from the mines of Montana is \$31,400,000.

CATTLE.

Notwithstanding the severe losses by the unprecedented winter of 1886-'87, cattle have been so largely increased, both by breeding and by purchase, that our ranges are again well stocked. This business of raising beef on our natural grasses, without shelter or extra feed for winter, has proved so remunerative that but few of our cattle kings are in any wise disposed to abdicate and seek other pursuits. The number of cattle in the Territory is now about one million and a half.

HORSES.

Our horses are steadily increasing in numbers and quality. Large blooded draft-horses are rapidly taking the place of inferior breeds in our city wagons and drays, and on the farm. Montana race horses have won many laurels during the past year, at home and abroad. Many of these horses have been sold in Kentucky and other eastern States, where fast horses are best known, most appreciated, and carefully bred. It is now well understood that Montana climate and grasses are favorable to the improvement of this noble animal. The number, as nearly as I have been able to ascertain, now in the Territory is about two hundred thousand.

SHEEP.

The wool-growers of this Territory have largely increased their flocks, and will continue this good and profitable industry. Some fear the effects of free wool, but those best informed on this subject believe that free wool will not injure the sheep culture any more than free hides did the cattle kings. Mutton alone it is believed will pay the cost of raising sheep in Montana, and the wool clipped and sold is all profit. The net clear profit on investments in this great industry is from 20 to 30 per cent. The wool crop of this year produced largely over \$1,000,000. The number of sheep now in the Territory is very much greater than when I made a report a year ago showing two millions.

FORESTS.

Our forests are of such vital importance to the Territory that we can not refrain from again urging the necessity of some more efficient means of protecting them from fires and wasteful depredations. I have no hesitation in declaring my conviction that the best mode of preserving our forests is to have them surveyed and sold to the people of the Territory. Private interests would then be enlisted to co-operate with the Government in their preservation. Some appear to think that any who may desire to do so should have the same privilege to cut the pines of the mountains as the flock master has to cut the grass of the prairies; but the destroying ax stops the growth of centuries, while the mower only takes the growth of a season. Nothing in our country is more important than our forests, and nothing so needs the fostering and protecting care or the strong arm of the Government. Our mines and furnaces, our railroads and growing cities and our farms are making such demands upon the timber of our forests as will at no distant day produce very serious and dreadful conflicts over what will remain of these beautiful forests in Montana. It gives me great pleasure to say that forest fires have during the past year been much less destructive than usual. The people of this Territory have enacted laws pronouncing heavy penalties against those who wantonly or negligently set fire to the forests.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The public buildings in this Territory belonging to the United States are the assay office and its attachments, in the city of Helena, and the penitentiary structure, situated at Deer Lodge. These properties and all that pertains to them, including the beautiful grounds and ornamentations thereon, are in the best state of preservation, and most strictly guarded against trespass or abuse of any kind. The penitentiary, as a prison for the use of the United States in the confinement of convicted criminals and violators of the law under judgment of the Federal courts, is ample and more than sufficiently commodious for all its purposes. The Territorial government has no penitentiary of its own, and has for a number of years contracted with and paid the General Government for keeping, feeding, and taking care of the criminals convicted under the Territorial laws; and as a prison, and to answer these demands upon the Territory, it is not sufficiently large. It is now full, and already there are more crowded together in that narrow space than is consistent with the enlightened conscience of a humane government. Unless the institution is enlarged the Territory will be compelled to make other additional provisions for the confinement of its convicts. There are now in that prison one hundred and forty-five Territorial convicts, and five United States prisoners. The average number confined there during the last three and a half years has been one hundred and twenty-one. The care, attention, and faithfulness of the officer in charge of that institution—Hon. R. S. Kelley, United States Marshal of Montana—has been such that, with the aid of this remarkable climate, not one death has occurred among the prisoners or officers of that institution during those three years and a half. Can any other prison or institution within the United States, having similar numbers, boast as much? Can any town, village, or neighborhood of similar numbers in the United States say so much?

This government of Montana has come to stay, and proposes, through the just convictions of duty in the Congress of the United States, to be a State government, equal in every way with each one of the present family and sisterhood of the sovereign States of America. This government will always need to have a State's prison house. The United States, in all its needs for such a place in this country, can use, as she does in some of the States, the penitentiary of the Territory. In view of the necessity for the enlargement of the penitentiary, as above suggested, I submit and recommend that an act of Congress be passed donating this prison and grounds to the government of Montana. Then the Territory can add to and enlarge its dimensions, and will impose labor upon the prisoners as a part of their engagement while so separated from their families and the world.

This Territory has no capitol building nor buildings for eleemosynary purposes; but there is a county court-house at the capital of the Territory of large dimensions and well adapted to not only the wants of the county but to all the needs of the Territory. In it are fine offices, legislative halls, court-rooms, library, etc., and it is a building which, in architecture, elegance of structure, and finish, will compare well with any court-house in the States. The Territorial officers rent and use rooms in that building.

This Territory, containing more than 143,000 square miles, is now divided into sixteen counties—two of them less than two years ago—and in each of fourteen of these there is a good court-house, and the necessary public buildings to facilitate the transaction of all public business. The city of Helena is the great central point of legislative, judicial,

financial, commercial, and educational affairs in the Territory, and is also the railroad center. This city has a population of more than 15,000 persons, and is rapidly growing every year; hence the vast volume of mail matter that comes to this place, amounting in letters, papers, and packages to more the present year than 45,000 each day. Such an immense quantity of mail connecting with so many thousands of people every day demands space and buildings correspondingly proportioned for its receipt, keeping, and distribution. No private property answering fully to this demand can be procured for these purposes. I most respectfully ask the honorable Secretary of the Interior for his favor to recommend that Congress provide at once the means, and cause to be located here a Government building of such class and security as will meet the present and growing wants of this city. The people of this Territory have through their hard toil and in the midst of great privations, during the last twenty years, contributed to the golden wealth of the United States not less than \$400,000,000, and are now more than ever increasing this stream of their rich offerings. The Territory is a great empire—larger than Great Britain and Ireland, and is almost as large as all the New England States, including the States of New York and Pennsylvania. Within this vast area of country there are many of the most beautiful and growing towns and cities; each one of which is in the immediate surroundings of the richest soil, large rivers, and other fountains of contributing wealth, assuring to each the position of a great center of commerce.

The City of Butte, in Silver Bow County, is already the largest and most populous city west of Denver, between the Mississippi River and the Pacific coast, and is the largest mining camp in the world. In this city men of courage have quietly and steadily persevered in the use of skill and energy, and the ready help of honest laborers, opened the mountains, measured their depths, and have in less than ten years given to the country's circulating wealth more than \$100,000,000. The force of capital and labor concentrated there is increasing every year, and the rewards fully demonstrate the fact that this wonderful home of gold, silver, copper, and other minerals has been but partially disturbed. Butte City, in Montana, the richest mining camp in the world, is the pride and boast of this Commonwealth, and no State or people in this nation of wealth can fail to appreciate the brightness of this silver star. The most enthusiastic and extravagant calculator does not pretend to estimate the great future of these vast mountains, so full of sleeping wealth. Butte, with its teeming thousands of busy, intelligent people—laborers and men of every laudable avocation—turning out to the world every year its many millions of money and a commerce the volume of which can be estimated only by tens of millions, and having daily railroad transportation in every direction, needs to have, and the Government of the United States needs to have there, commodious and well supplied public buildings for post-office and for the public officers. The people there are cramped and inconvenienced already for the want of such provision. No other city or town in the United States having the commerce and population equal to Helena or Butte, in this Territory, has failed to get the favor of Congress and be supplied with a United States building to meet the class of wants herein suggested. It is no immodest request that is now made by Montana's people that these two cities shall have the notice of Congressional justice and liberality, and be supplied with this much needed help.

The annual output of our mines ten years ago was estimated at \$7,000,000; now it is over \$31,000,000. The total value of taxable prop-

erty in the Territory then was \$12,000,000; now it is \$70,000,000 (not counting the value of the mining property). The number of cattle in the Territory then was 220,000, now it is 1,500,000; number of sheep then was 120,000, now it is over 2,000,000; number of horses then was 40,000, now it is 200,000; number of acres of land then under cultivation was 265,000, now there are over 2,000,000 acres appropriated and settled for farming purposes; then the commerce of the whole Territory was \$20,000,000, now it is \$40,000,000; then there was but a dozen or so miles of railroad, now there are over 2,000; then the population was 30,000, now it is 140,000; then the Territory was in debt \$112,000, now it is out of debt, and there is plenty of money in the treasury; then taxes were high, now they are low; then the contest for the mastery of this country between the Indian and the white man was red with human blood, and every household trembled in anxiety for the triumphs of peace and of rest, now all is quiet, and the hostile foe has laid down his battle-ax, put on the robes of civilization, and treads the path of industry side by side with the white man.

There are various localities in this Territory separated from each other by great natural landmarks—mountains or rivers—either and each of which, considered in its extent and acreage, its quality of soil, timber, stone, and water, is a great State in itself. The far-famed grain-growing Gallatin and Bitter Root Valleys, the Flat Head, Yellowstone, Judith, Sun River, Missouri, Beaverhead, Big Hole, Big Horn, Rosebud, Milk River, Madison, Deer Lodge, Prickly Pear, and Boulder Valleys, and many others, have demonstrated to the world their superior capacity in the yield of wheat, oats, grass, potatoes, peas, vegetables of all kinds, small fruits, and in some of them the large fruits.

These beautiful valleys, plains, and their foot-hills are not excelled in producing qualities by any lands in the United States. The great streams of fast-going water which pass through or touch these lands is the source from which all needed irrigation can be cheaply supplied. There are many millions of acres of these lands yet in their virgin purity, inviting the plowman's hand. By an act of the Congress of the United States, passed and approved in the early months of this year, a large boundary of lands, covering more than 20,000,000 of acres, heretofore reserved to and set apart to the use of the Piegan and other Indians, was redeemed from Indian ownership, is soon to be surveyed and offered to the purchase and occupancy of the citizens of the United States. The Saint Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad, stretching from Saint Paul to Great Falls, and by the Montana Central from there to Helena and to Butte City, a distance of more than 1,200 miles, courses its way through this vast area of fine lands, whose surface has not yet been broken by the plow, nor their rich grasses trodden down nor taken by the ranchman's herd. To these lands, with all their rich offerings, Montana invites the attention of the home-seekers of the East.

There are only three land offices in this Territory—at Helena, Bozeman, and Miles City. The lands now soon to be sought after, to which I have just referred, and vast quantities of other lands in their vicinity yet vacant and unappropriated, are far remote from each and all of the offices already established—from 200 to 500 miles. I ask that another land office be established in the Territory and located near these lands.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

PRESTON H. LESLIE,
Governor.

Hon. W. F. VILAS,
Secretary of the Interior.







